The Southern PATRIOT

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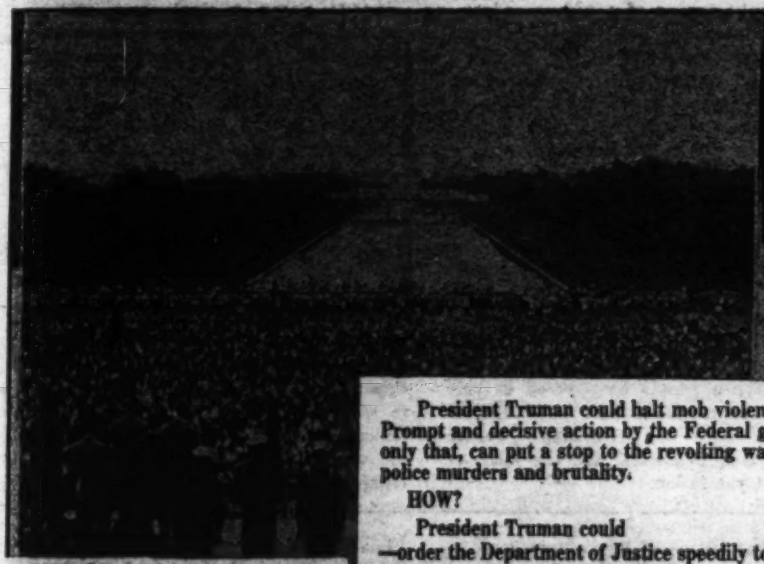

SCHW Memorial Service for victims of mob violence, at Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D. C.

President Truman could halt mob violence in the South. Prompt and decisive action by the Federal government, and only that, can put a stop to the revolting wave of lynchings, police murders and brutality.

HOW?

President Truman could

—order the Department of Justice speedily to apprehend, arrest, prosecute, and ask the death sentence for every lyncher in every lynching;

—outlaw by executive order the Ku Klux Klan and other masked organizations, conspiring to deprive American citizens of their civil rights;

—call a special session of Congress immediately to pass the Federal anti-lynching law and other legislation enabling the government fully to enforce our constitutional rights;

—replace Attorney General Tom Clark with an ardent defender of civil liberties.

It is the dismaying truth that the ineffective record of Tom Clark's Department of "Justice" offers nothing but encouragement to lynchers and would-be lynchers. Not a single conviction for violation of civil rights has been secured by the Department; witness also the complete whitewash of murder and crime in the Columbia, Tennessee, case by the Federal grand jury, after hearing Department of Justice agents present the case.

Whether President Truman does stop mob violence is up to the American people. Only the strength of our voices can force prompt Federal action and prevent further bloodshed. Nothing can excuse our inaction.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare calls upon every group in the South—every union, every church group, every farm, youth and professional organization, every individual—to insist to President Truman that he use the full power of the Federal government to protect the lives and safety of the Southern people.

The Southwide Election Scoreboard

Here is a roundup of the most important Southern primary results:

The Senate

Two new liberal Senators from the South will join lone Senator Pepper next January: a fellow Floridian, Spessard Holland, and Alabama's John Sparkman.

Mr. Holland was chosen Democratic nominee, after a race with race-baiting Lex Green, to fill the spot of Senator Andrews who did not run.

John Sparkman was elected over the opposition of two longtime Alabama reactionaries—Congressman Frank Boykin and corporation-lawyer Jim Simpson—for the seat of the late Sen. Bankhead. Boykin and Simpson, afraid of the progressive upswing that put Governor Jim Folsom in office, posed as great liberals and conveniently forgot their records. But the people remembered and gave Sparkman as many votes as his two opponents combined. Sparkman's record in the House of Representatives has been far better than average.

Machine candidates Byrd of Virginia and McKellar of Tennessee were both returned to office. But machine opposition, as shown by the dramatic events in Athens, Tennessee, is immeasurably stronger than ever before.

Bilbo of Mississippi was able to win his majority of 3800 votes (the smallest in his career) only by intimidation which kept thousands of qualified Negro voters from the polls. The Senate has the power as well as the duty to refuse to seat Bilbo, not only because of his constant un-American activity and his admitted membership in the Ku Klux Klan, but because his threats against Negro voters made his election actually fraudulent.

PRIMARY TRENDS

The primary elections in the South show the beginning of a widespread political awakening. The day when the overwhelming majority of the Southern people—the workers, the poor farmers and the Negroes—will change the South from the most reactionary section of the country to the most progressive, is a lot closer.

The scoreboard shows that at least 18 of the South's most reactionary Congressmen will not be on hand when Congress reconvenes; and that two new liberal Senators from the South are replacing two men who have voted consistently against the interests of the South.

The Negro people have voted in primaries for the first time since Reconstruction days in Mississippi, Texas, Georgia and Arkansas, and the heavens have not yet fallen.

The South is still a land of minority rule. In not one single state did as many as 50% of the eligible voters cast their ballots. Voting restrictions still rob numbers of the most potentially progressive voters—labor and farmers, Negro and white—of their part in Southern politics. That means it will take longer to break the machines, that there will be many defeats, as there were in the recent primaries.

But the important and inescapable developments are that labor is organizing politically, that Negroes are voting and organizing politically, that the veterans are taking up the battle for honest government, against the machines; that all these fighters for progress are beginning to work together and are finding many liberal allies; and as a result, the number of voters—and therefore victories—is climbing fast.

The House of Representatives

Reactionary Congressmen who will not return to the House from the South either because they were defeated or did not run for reelection, include: Cannon of Florida; Tarver, Gibson and Peterson of Georgia; Weaver of North Carolina; Boren, Wickersham, Johnson and Stewart of Oklahoma; Hare of South Carolina; Earthman and Reece of Tennessee; Lanham, Russell, Sumners, and L. A. Johnson of Texas; and Daughton of Virginia.

All of these men have voted time and again against the welfare of the Southern people. The men replacing them are not in all cases liberals, but on the whole, they should produce a sharp progressive trend in the Southern bloc in the House. It is important to remember that the seniority system in Congress gives great power to many Southern reactionaries; and that the retirement of men like Hatton Sumners, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, or Malcolm Tarver of the Appropriations Committee is of great benefit to the nation, no matter who should be elected in their place.

Mrs. Helen Mankin of Georgia won overwhelmingly the popular vote in her district, which includes Atlanta, but lost in the county unit count. Her strong support, however, was able to force the district Democratic Executive Committee to place her name as well as her opponent's on the November ballot, both certified as Democratic nominees!

The reelection of Rep. Rankin, of course, was a blow to the entire nation, but it is worth noting that he received the smallest majority of his career.

Governors

Biggest people's victory on the gubernatorial front was "Big Jim" Folsom's overwhelming election in Alabama by a strong coalition of small farmers, workers and the Negro people.

The court challenge of the county unit system in Georgia offers hope that Carmichael may yet win his rightful place as governor. We cannot forget that the majority of Georgia's voters voted against Talmadge.

In Texas, Dr. Homer Rainey, ex-university president with a forthright progressive program, came in second of a field of twelve candidates. His 400,000 votes are remarkable, remembering the fact that this was his initial political effort made without machine assistance or wealth.

Incumbent governors won in Arkansas and Tennessee.

"White" Primary?

Over 90,000 Negroes voted in Texas for the first time, and many Negro precinct delegates were elected to the Democratic Party county conventions. At least 1500 Negroes braved Bilbo's threats and voted in Mississippi. In Arkansas, two primaries were held, the one for federal officials open to Negroes, the one for state officials closed. In Georgia, an attempt to challenge Negro voters was fought off successfully in most of the state, and 100,000 went to the polls for the first time since the Civil War days.

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THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

CLARK FOREMAN, *President*

TARLETON COLLIER, *Secretary*

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JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI

Administrator and Editor

DEMOCRACY RETURNS TO ATHENS, TENNESSEE

The Declaration of Rights in the Tennessee Constitution declares:

"That all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness; for the advancement of those ends they have at all times, an unalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper. . . That government being instituted for the common benefit, the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind."

In Athens, Tennessee, on election day, August 1, 1946, the people resisted and threw off the arbitrary power of a corrupt machine that for ten years had misruled McMinn County.

"What other remedy did the people have?" wrote Editor Lowell F. Arterburn in the Daily Post-Athenian. "That's the question we ask those editorial writers in other papers who say, 'We don't condone violence.'

"Many say the proper preventive and remedy is ballots, rather than bullets. That is the proper preventive, but it is not, and cannot be, the proper remedy where such condition already exists to the extent it existed in McMinn County. . . .

"Such things as the recent restoration of free-citizenship in McMinn County," wrote Editor Arterburn, "happen in just this way when the people lose faith in the courts and officers."

These words of Mr. Arterburn summed up the feeling of the people of McMinn. To them, what happened seemed not a violation of law and order, but, after ten years of corrupt thug rule, a return to law and order and to the cherished democratic process.

The Athens Picture

McMinn is a Tennessee Valley agricultural county, and Athens, its county seat, has apopulation over 10,000, a market and business center for the farming areas. Athens has, also, about 32 small industries, no big ones, and no big labor unions. Not a great many Negroes live there, but those who do have been voting freely. McMinn is one of Tennessee's dry counties. Before the Cantrell Machine came into power ten years ago, in victory over a notorious Republican machine, the county usually had gone Republican.

"Little Crump Machine"

Over the state, the Cantrell Machine, in alliance with Burch Biggs' Machine in neighboring Polk County, was known as the "Little Crump Machine." The top men of the Cantrell organization were State Senator Paul Cantrell, Sheriff Pat Mansfield, and Speaker of the State House of Representatives George Woods. Paul Cantrell had served the first three terms as sheriff—the legal limit for continuous service in that office—and then two terms as Senator. Mansfield filled out these last two terms as sheriff. Now Cantrell was to become sheriff again and Mansfield senator.

Although the several Cantrell brothers already were wealthy—they owned most of the town of Etowah and a bank in Athens—Paul wanted a great deal more. A county machine controlled by the sheriff proved to be just the thing. Although the salary of the office was only $5,000 a year, the returns usually netted him about $50,000. The machine made money by selling protection to the bootleggers, the operators of gambling houses, and the like. They supposedly paid $50 a month for this protection.

Law enforcement made money, too. The police racket had a quota of one hundred arrests per week-end. The arrests were mostly of tourists passing through the county and of returned servicemen with their discharge pay still in their pockets. Those arrested were fined the standard amount of $16.05. That usually meant $1605.00 taken in each week-end.

The people of McMinn tried before to overthrow the machine, but failed. They had tried to vote as honest people, but ballot boxes had been stuffed. They had carried the fight against corrupt elections and gunman rule into court in 1940, only to see a court friendly to the machine dispose of two election fraud convictions with fines of one cent each. It is easy to see how such a result of their efforts had made the people despondent. In the elections of 1942 and 1944 there had been no opposition to the machine.

"The machine," wrote Joe Hatcher of the Nashville Tennessean, "climbed far and fast during the war years. They had the state administration, the state highway patrol, the Crump forces, the legislative representation, and the Biggs support—and the young men were away fighting for democracy."

While overseas, quite a few McMinn boys thought long and painfully about political conditions back home. When they returned, they saw with eyes sharpened by that war against foreign tyrannies just how bad the corruption and the strong arm methods had come to be. They decided to challenge the power of local tyranny.

(Continued on next page)

GI WINNERS (standing, left to right): Pickel, Register; Hamby, Circuit Court Clerk; Painter, County Court Clerk; Carmichael, Trustee; and Henry, Sheriff, being congratulated by Otto Kennedy, Election Commissioner and leader in the fight at the jail. Seated: J. P. Cartwright, member of 3-man Citizens' Governing Committee, and George Woods, Election Commissioner.

"Your Vote Will Be Counted As Cast"

Advised and encouraged by community leaders, the veterans called a convention for May 9th. About 400 veterans attended, approved the idea of running a GI non-partisan ticket in the county election, and nominated a slate made up of three Democrats and two Republicans.

At the head of the list, running for sheriff, was ex-sergeant Knox Henry, from the European Theater, wounded in North Africa. Married and having one child, he operated a service station in Athens. He was a Republican.

Also from the European Theater was Frank Carmichael, named for county trustee. Frank had been wounded seriously in the Battle of St. Lo, later had been discharged with the rank of major. A Democrat and unmarried, he farmed between Athens and Etowah.

For county court clerk, George Painter was chosen. Active in the Pacific Theater, George had been wounded on Okinawa. He ended his service as a technical sergeant. Married after the war's end, George was at work as a mechanic in Etowah. He was a Democrat.

Another Democrat, Bill Hamby, was nominated for circuit court clerk. Bill had served in the South Pacific as a captain. Now he was in the building supply business in Athens. He, also, was married.

A partially disabled veteran of World War I became the GI candidate for register of deeds. He was Charlie Pickel, of Englewood, a carpenter, married.

As campaign manager, the veterans selected Jim Buttram, son of a local grocer, overseas with the Ninth Infantry Division for 30 months, under fire in Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France, twice wounded. Ralph Duggan, Navy veteran, became chief strategist.

The Campaign

A campaign fund was built up through the generous contributions of merchants, businessmen, and farmers throughout the county. The candidates and other ex-GI's working on the campaign gave their time and paid their own traveling and incidental expenses. They conducted a vigorous campaign with handshaking tours, strategy meetings, rallies, handbills, posters, and with a daily radio program and frequent spot announcements over the new Athens station. Every day at noon over the radio came GI music, questions to embarrass the machine or an attack upon some recent action of the machine, and above all the constantly repeated slogan—and solemn promise—"Your Vote Will Be Counted as Cast."

"Your Vote Will Be Counted as Cast," promised the GI Non-Partisan League. The people of McMinn who had been powerless against the machine for so long, began to feel new hope. There were so many veterans—perhaps enough to watch the polls and insure a fair election.

Vets Arrested

Meanwhile, the machine got tougher. By intimidation it set out to dishearten the veterans and frighten their families. Deputy sheriffs began to arrest veterans on any minor charge, and, while they held them in jail, to beat and threaten them. Veterans, given back their wallets when they were let out of jail, found that their poll tax receipts had been removed.

The GI Non-Partisan League, fearing violence, asked Governor McCord to send the state guard in on election day. The Governor did not do so—because, he said later, when the shooting was over, he had received no official request for the guard. This excuse prompted Ned Carmack, candidate for the U. S. Senate against Sen. McKellar, to recall that "Cantrell had purchased an advertisement declaring he would arm 500 deputies. . . I have never seen such a gigantic wholesale swindling."

The Election

Election day came. And McMinn was filled with deputy sheriffs, not only the regular force but also special deputies drawn from those who depended upon the machine for protection—the bootleggers, gambling house operators, and the like—and from the machine's henchmen in neighboring counties. Since enough to do the strong arm job could not be found in that area, many were brought up from Georgia. Provided with badges, pistols, and blackjacks, they literally swarmed around the polling places. The blackjacks were used freely.

Walter Ellis was forcibly removed as GI judge from the 1st Precinct at the Court House, Athens. In the Dixie Cafe voting place, Bob Hairrell, election judge for the GI's, challenged the right of a 19-year-old youth to vote. The election officer, a particularly notorious deputy, yelled "Damn you! You've been giving us trouble all day." Turning upon Hairrell, he split his head open with a blackjack. After the veteran had fallen, the election officer kicked him in the face and had him carried off to jail.

Shot In the Back

At another box, Tom Gillespie, a Negro, tried to vote in the 11th Precinct. The thin paper ballot (an old Cantrell device) held to the light showed that he was voting for the GI's. Promtply, his right to vote in that precinct was challenged. He protested, but to no avail. As he was being hustled out of the polling place, he was shot in the back by a special deputy.

In six of the smaller, outlying polling places, the swarm of deputies was thinner than in Athens and the GI poll watchers were able to hold to their posts and watch the ballot boxes counted. In these precincts, the Veteran candidates led by two to one.

But in the Athens precincts, which the machine was depending upon for its steal, GI poll watchers were held prisoners and prevented from witnessing the counting of ballots, or were driven off at the point of guns. Two ballot boxes were "captured" by the deputies and hauled off to the jail in true gangster style.

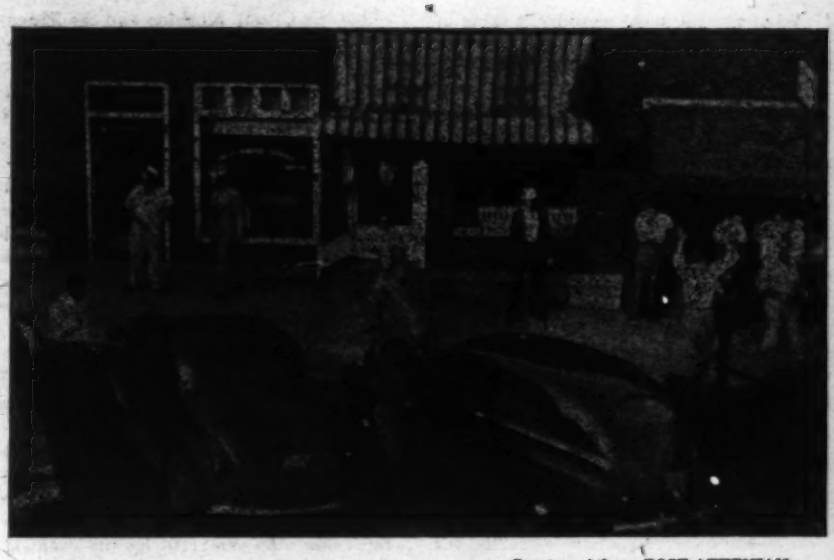
Apparently, another election was being stolen by force.

Mr. H. F. McMillan, Chairman of the McMinn County Board of Education, went home and wrote out his resignation. *"Today," he wrote, "I have been a witness to an election which I considered as Un-Democratic and Un-American as could possibly be conducted. . . I would recommend to all teachers in McMinn County that they refuse to carry on the very difficult job of operating our schools under the present handicaps of low pay, inadequate facilities, and the ever-present realization of political graft which prevents the improvement of these conditions."*

A FEW CANTRELL-MANSFIELD DEPUTIES, herded back into jail cells after surrender.

he Votes Are Made to Count

"Your Vote Will Be Counted as Cast." The Veterans and the people of Athens still remembered that promise. As darkness came, they began to gather around the headquarters of the GI Non-Partisan League. This time they had brought their guns. All day long they had been unarmed. The GI leaders had warned their followers against violence. They had forbidden veteran supporters to do any drinking. Now, it was a sober and earnest crowd of Athenians, young, middle-aged, and old. Their decision was spontaneous. They marched to the jail and demanded that the ballot boxes be returned to the voting places for legal counting and tallying. Their demand was answered with gunfire from inside the jail. They fired back. For six hours the streets of Athens rang with gunfire, and here and there tracer bullets lit the dark.



Courtesy Athens POST-ATHENIAN

CLIMAX OF ELECTION DAY INCIDENTS which drove Athens citizens to take direct action against Cantrell Machine. Charles Scott, Jr. (hands over head in center foreground) and Ed Vestal (on sidewalk at right also with hands over head), were both GI Poll Watchers at 11th Precinct Voting Place (under striped awning). Scott and Vestal had not been permitted to watch the counting of votes, yet they had been held prisoners inside the locked Voting Place. They have just broken through the plate-glass front door and are retreating to the crowd of citizens across the street, to report proceedings inside Voting Place. Other figures in picture are Cantrell-Mansfield deputies, drawing pistols on retreating GI Poll Watchers.

Vets Return Fire

As 3 A. M. drew near, an ex-GI threw four successive charges of dynamite ever closer to the jail. The last one jolted loose the porch. He warned the deputies that the next blast would hit inside the jail unless they surrendered. The deputies came out, their hands over their heads. The crowd, angry by now, wanted to lynch the deputy who shot the Negro, and the other who blackjacked Hairrell. But the GI leaders, appealing for orderly processes of justice, quieted the throng and released all but the two deputies involved in the polling place assaults.

Meanwhile, the three leaders of the machine, State Senator Paul Cantrell, Sheriff Pat Mansfield, and Speaker of the State House of Representatives George Woods, had fled the county.

It was not until later Friday morning that the people of Athens and McMinn County awoke to the realization that they were living without the benefit of law. Immediately, the leaders of the movement sent out over the local radio station a call for a mass meeting in the Court House that afternoon, for the purpose of establishing an interim government. This meeting of citizens quickly chose a three-man commission to exercise authority and then adjourned. Selected as Chairman was Rev. Bernie Hampton, Methodist minister. The other two members were C. A. Anderson, hosiery and notion wholesaler, and J. P. Cartwright, lumber and petroleum dealer.

Vets Keep Order

Gov. McCord promptly recognized the Commission as the governmental authority of McMinn. At this late hour, the Commission was offered units of the state highway patrol to help maintain order. The Commission declined; instead, it set up its own police patrols of veterans and local citizens and assigned shifts of duty.

Holding Their Gains

Saturday afternoon, rumors persisted that Cantrell was reforming his forces in neighboring Polk County and that with Burch Biggs' gang was preparing to launch a counter-attack upon Athens. A call for defenders went out over the radio station. From every corner of the county 1500 men and boys poured into Athens, armed with all kinds of weapons. Added to the usual Saturday crowd, already augmented by the curious, this throng of defenders made Athens bulge.

Register Firearms

Quick to see the danger in having so many armed men milling about, the Commission ordered all to file through the Court House and register themselves and their guns. Obeying promptly, the men formed orderly lines and proceeded with the registration. After about five hundred had passed through, the Chairman of the Commission announced from the Court House steps that as many as could possibly be used for patrolling had been registered; that all others should return to their homes, to be called by radio or fire siren if an attack became imminent. **Within a very few minutes the 1,000 remaining armed men vanished without a protest or a challenge, and the Commission proceeded to designate patrols and shifts for the area.**

Objective Gained

No attack developed, and the county remained quiet until the restoration of legally constituted law enforcement on the following Monday, August 5. At that time, the County Court accepted the verbal resignation, received from afar, of Sheriff Pat Mansfield and appointed Sheriff-elect Knox Henry to fill out his unexpired term. In the meantime, a majority of the three-man County Election Commission had met, thrown out six contested ballot boxes (they had been so tampered with by the deputies as to be meaningless), and on the basis of the six remaining boxes declared the Veterans' candidates elected. For this purpose, George Woods had been permitted a "safe conduct" return, and, as Secretary of the Election Commission had signed the certificates of election for the GIs.

What to Make of Athens

What are the most significant facts of the Athens story? Was Athens an effort of ill-adjusted ex-soldiers to push themselves into power and then return to armed might when democratic balloting seemed to be failing? Not at all. Rather, the veterans' campaign had broad popular support from the very beginning. Prominent non-veteran citizens took part in the conception of the idea, the financing of the campaign, and the actual work of getting out the vote. The great mass of citizens voted for the GI ticket when election day arrived—over 2 to 1.

The Veterans' Ticket did not have unanimous veteran support. Ex-soldiers did not stick together in solid opposition to civilians. In contrast, veterans were divided between the two tickets in about the same proportion as civilians were. Veterans belonging to families owing allegiance to the machine or depending on the machine for protection supported the machine ticket.

The leaders of the veterans' campaign never lost their feeling of sober responsibility to the community—not even in the heat of the fight or in the flush of victory. It was these leaders who bodily defended the most despised deputies upon their emergence from the jail and persuaded the crowd not to take revenge on them.

No Lawlessness

Except for the overturning of deputies' cars, there was no lawlessness during the four-day absence of law enforcement authority. There was no looting; there were no robberies; there was no rioting. As for the deputies' cars, they were over turned not out of vandalism or for vengeance, but to prevent the deputies from escaping the city. This act was committed by persons unknown, at the height of the excitement, when the leaders of the movement were wholly occupied in saving the lives of the surrendering deputies.

There was no interruption in community activities, in business, in municipal services, or in governmental functions. County and city offices continued to perform their usual functions. Law enforcement was provided by the patrols established by the three-man interim Commission.

Throughout the crisis, the upheaval was in the hands of men who were anxious not to create civil disorder but to return the county to true law and order, as well as to decency.

The success in the attempt of McMinn County citizens to overthrow the Cantrell Machine is a stinging blow to the prestige and power of the Crump Machine in Memphis and to its hold upon Tennessee government. The haste with which the Crump Machine and the Biggs Polk County Machine disowned the Cantrell gang is evidence of the injury inflicted. In considering these disavowals, one need only recollect that George Woods, No. 3 man in the Cantrell Machine, was Speaker of the House of Representatives in the 1945 Crump-controlled State Legislature; that in this Legislature State Senator Cantrell voted straight down the Crump line; and that in the campaign just ended the Crump Coalition ticket and the Cantrell leaders exchanged compliments profusely.

Cantrell—Child of Crump

Further, the Cantrell machine was a faithful child of the parent Crump organization. Crump's methods throughout the state are much the same as those in McMinn County. His own machine and his satellites in Tennessee have been built and stay powerful by the crassest form of ballot-stealing, stuffing and buying. Campaign funds for the recent elections, for example, were raised from a compulsory statewide shakedown of state employees and liquor dealers. Memphis today is a fear-ridden city, where no individual is free from effective economic pressure by the Crump octopus.

However, ridding the state of the Crump Machine will be a more difficult job than tossing out the little Cantrell Machine. The latter used its tyranny to gouge every possible penny from the McMinn County people without giving them anything in return, and therefore overplayed its hand. The Crump Organization, in contrast, has given the people of Memphis a few services and facilities—or, at least, it has made them believe that it has—in return for the surrender of their civil and political rights and their self-respect.

What happened at Athens will undoubtedly arouse in the people of Memphis and the state the same desire to recover their liberties and their self-respect. Only then can they cast off the tyranny under which they live and break the strangle hold of the Crump Machine on government in Tennessee.

The pioneering example of McMinn has been an inspiration to Tennessee, the South, the nation—wherever boss-ridden politics has made a travesty of democracy. People despairing of tyranny in their governments have taken heart at this local triumph of decency. They admire the courage, determination, and discipline of the people of McMinn in driving out tyranny and restoring the law and order of a democratic government.

Already veterans of five counties in Arkansas, of Crockett County in Tennessee, of Phoenix City, Alabama, are organizing to overthrow machine rule. Honest and progressive citizens must join with the veterans and give them every support.

Undoubtedly, fascist-minded forces will attempt to gain control of many of these democratic veterans' movements and turn them against the people's welfare. Already several stormtrooper-like veterans groups have been formed (such as the Veterans Industrial Association) aimed against labor and minority groups. The people must be on guard—vigilant—against such organizations. Violence will be their method. They will try to use Athens as their precedent.

The lesson of Athens, however, is that violence was used first by the fascist-like deputies to maintain their undemocratic throttlehold. Violence cannot be condoned, except in self-defense. Jim Buttram's advice to other veterans that violence is unnecessary and dangerous is well-taken.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare, pioneer in the fight for democracy in the South, initiator and leader in the movement to abolish the poll tax and other voting restrictions to bring back majority rule, extends a hand of solidarity to the people of Athens. It is proud that Rev. Bernie Hampton, elected chairman of the interim government in Athens, is a member of the Committee for Tennessee of the Southern Conference.

Pledge of Support

The Conference pledges to the veterans of McMinn that it will spare no effort to extend their battle for honest government to every corner of the South, where tiny, restricted electorates make it easy for tyrannical machines to rule.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare calls upon the people of every Southern community to follow the lead of the first class citizens of Athens, and make THEIR government THEIR business until the 30% of the eligible voters who now vote becomes 100%, until every crooked politician is removed from office.

Southern Conference for Human Welfare
212½ Union Street, Nashville, Tenn.

____ I take my stand for full democracy in the South. I want to join the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. Enclosed is $2 membership for one year.

____ Please send me more information about the Southern Conference.

Name _____

Address _____

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Revolt of the South and the West, by A. G. Mezerik, Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc. 1946. $3.00.

Monopoly and corporate interests in the East, controlling transportation, capital, patents and raw materials, have deliberately prevented industrialization of half of the United States. This is the basic explanation of the low wages, high prices, and pitifully inadequate living standards in the South and the West, documented in great detail in this important book. A useful handbook for everyone concerned with improving human welfare. Excerpts will be printed in the next issue of the SOUTHERN PATRIOT.

Georgia Facts in Figures, A Source Book, University of Georgia Press. $2.00.

Here in 167 pages of charts, maps and figures is a picture of Georgia. This is the climax of nine years of monumental research work by the Citizens' Fact Finding Movement of Georgia under the leadership of its able Administrator, Josephine Wilkins.

Dew On Jordan, by Harold Preece and Celia Kraft, E. B. Dutton & Co., $2.50.

A friendly story about the little known sects and cults of folk religion in the South, helpful in understanding the "little" people who support them. The Preeces' next book, The Living South, will be published this fall.

Handbook of Politics and Voters Guide, by Lowell Mellett, Penguin Books. 1946. 25c.

The ABCs of political action, complete with voting records of Senators and Congressmen on major issues.

Tomorrow Without Fear, by Chester Bowles. $1.00.

A discussion of "bread and butter" economics problems in terms the ordinary man can understand.

John Donnar: Common Man, by Walter and Elizabeth Rogers, Victory Library, Box 1294, New Orleans. $2.00.

This diary and life story of a labor organizer is exciting reading and good labor history.

The Faith of a Liberal, by Morris R. Cohen, Henry Holt & Co. $3.75.

A collection of essays by one of America's foremost philosophers covering many contemporary problems.

Don West, Southern Poet,
Author of "Clods of Southern Earth"

Clods of Southern Earth, by Don West, Boni & Gaer, 1946. $2.50, cloth bound edition; $1.00, paper bound edition.

Georgia gave us Talmadge. It is comforting in facing the future to know that it also gave us Gov. Arnall and now Don West, a major younger poet of the South. "I want to tell America," says Don West, "about victory—about sharecroppers, tenants, black men and crackers, and you must listen and look and think deep—for even I, a Georgia cracker, one of your mongrels, am grieved at what I've seen." The book is dedicated to Alva Taylor, Treasurer of the SCHW, and a former teacher of Don West at Vanderbilt School of Religion.

The Roots of American Loyalty, by Merle Curti, Columbia University Press, 1946. $3.00.

An historical study, delightful reading, should be required reading for the Wood-Rankin Committee and all others who presume to define the American way.

They Seek A City, by Arna Bontemps and Jack Conroy, Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1945. $2.75.

The well written story of the great migrations of Southern Negroes in their search for greater economic and cultural opportunities.

Color Blind, by Margaret Halsey (To be published in September), Simon & Schuster. $2.00.

A book on race based on the author's experience as captain of hostesses at the Stage Door Canteen, which operated without discrimination.

Are You On Their Lists?

The National Institute of Social Relations was organized by a group who during the war planned and prepared the excellent Army Orientation Program discussion materials, and who are now preparing "TALK IT OVER" discussion guides to help educate civilians on the vital issues of the day.

Subject matter of the TALK IT OVER series ranges from problems of Youth, Veterans, Women, Labor, Housing, Health, Unemployment, Discrimination, Education, Propaganda, Community Planning to Atomic Energy and other national and international issues.

These guides are available at cost from the Institute, 1029 Seventeenth Street NW, Washington, D. C.

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The Bureau for Intercultural Education, 1697 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y., has been set up to serve as a central clearing house to distribute intercultural publications. Its 1946 list, available on request, includes, books, pamphlets, bibliographies, and articles published directly by the Bureau and in cooperation with other educators, as well as by other educational organizations and community agencies.

Help!

"Will America whitewash the Columbia murders, violence and vandalism?" asks a dramatic and effective petition, urging a new federal grand jury investigation, being circulated by the Civil Rights Congress.

The petition, which includes a summary of the facts in the Columbia, Tennessee, case, calls upon President Truman to order a new investigation that will fix the responsibility for the destruction of the Negro business section, prosecute state and local officials responsible for the mass deprivation of constitutional rights, and make restitution for the vandalism and looting of the Negro community.

The whitewash of the first federal grand jury, for which the Department of Justice is largely responsible, undoubtedly is encouraging lynchers all over the South to further mob violence.

Wide circulation of this petition should help force the Department of Justice to take action, not only in the Columbia case, but in every case where civil rights are violated.

Petitions are available from the Civil Rights Congress, 205 East 42 Street, New York 17, N. Y.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare Reports:

Protest the Lynchings!

At the initiation of the Southern Conference, memorial services for the victims of mob violence were held Monday, August 5 in Washington, D. C., and several Southern cities.

In Washington, 15,000 citizens assembled at the Lincoln Memorial, after an impressive silent parade down Constitution Avenue. Speakers included Clark Foreman, SCHW President, and representatives from AFL, CIO, American Veterans Committee, United Negro and Allied Veterans of America, N.A.A.C.P. and the National Negro Congress.

In Dallas, Texas, a memorial service was held by the Moorland Branch of the Young Men Christians Association.

In New Orleans, over 100 people attended a meeting in the YWCA where a Catholic priest, a rabbi and a Negro bishop participated, together with labor leaders.

Other meetings were held in North Carolina.

These meetings were all held with only one or two days notice, and the response was most gratifying.

The Conference is now urging protest wires to President Truman, insisting on federal action to prosecute the lynchers, outlaw the Ku Klux Klan and pass the anti-lynching bill.

Fighting to Save Price Control

Over 4,000 Montgomery, Alabama, citizens signed a petition to all Alabama Congressmen and Senators, saying:

"Stop runaway prices. Our living standards are being wiped out. We demand real price control."

The University of North Carolina SCHW chapter, in their campaign for OPA, staged a pantomime preview of sky-high prices on Chapel Hill's downtown street corners. One student wearing a sandwich board sign, designated as Mr. Supply and Demand," held a large, hydrogen-filled balloon labelled "High Prices," while another students, "Mr. OPA," tried to pull the balloon down every time "Mr. Supply and Demand" allowed a rise. Meanwhile, hundreds of "Save OPA" postcards were distributed by pretty coeds.

Look Him in the Eye

Newest publication of the Conference is Look Him in the Eye, a tribute to the American Negro soldier's contribution to the war. This beautifully-illustrated, large-size, 16-page pamphlet should go a long way towards winning greater tolerance and understanding. Will you help us see that it is circulated where it is most needed? Prices are 10c each, $9 per hundred, $75 per thousand.

Election Days

In the primaries recently held in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Texas and South Carolina, Southern Conference chapters did everything possible to get out the largest possible vote.

In every state, Southern Conference members took a leading part in mobilizing the progressive vote, and in protecting the right of Negroes to vote in the primaries.

New Office

The Central office of the Southern Conference, now in Nashville, is planning a permanent move to New Orleans on or about October 1. New address will be 808 Perdido Street.

The office of the Committee for Tennessee, of course, will remain in Nashville.

New address of the Washington office is 127 B Street S. E.

Come to New Orleans Over Thanksgiving Week-End

Save and Carry Forward

THE ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

AFTER a decade of forward-looking national leadership—

Congress—with the Southern bloc at the helm—has just done a hatchet job on everything from OPA to the full employment bill.

AFTER a war for freedom—

The unity of the Allies is falling apart and there is no peace. Here at home Talmadge and the Klan ride again.

AFTER years of constructive progress in the South and unprecedented wartime expansion of Southern industry—

War plants are closed, living standards have dropped sharply since V-J Day, the South's per capita income remains half that of the nation's, and its health, housing and education levels are shockingly inferior.

Everyone is invited to attend the SCHW's first postwar all-Southerns conference in New Orleans, November 28-30. Everyone is needed, to hammer out a program for full employment and full democracy in our region.

Who are you? Educator? Social worker? Farmer? Business man? Worker? Man? Woman? White? Negro? You are welcome. It will take all of us to defend and extend the welfare of the Southern people.

Living, Franklin D. Roosevelt inspired the great conference in Birmingham in 1938 where the SCHW was born; and the Chattanooga and Nashville conferences in 1940 and 1942. Roosevelt is gone; but his far-seeing program—now in danger—is the inspiration for another great meeting, an outpouring of the progressive South. We must meet the challenge.

Plan to spend THANKSGIVING WEEK-END at the Fourth Biennial Conference of the S.C.H.W. in New Orleans, La. November 28 through 30th